

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980

APRIL 2003



Photo by C.M.Collins

CORONATION OF 2003 CARNAVAL SF KING AND QUEEN

Amid a full house of royalty, Antonio Naranjo and Iya Silva were crowned King and Queen of Carnaval SF 2003 to the cheers of the overflowing crowd at Roccapulco Supper Club on Sunday, March 30. Chosen from a field of 18 stellar candidates, King Naranjo, a 25 year old from Michaocan, Mexico and Queen Silva, a Jamaican born Brazilian dancer, will reign over the 25th Silver Anniversary Parade and Festival.

Former Carnaval Kings and Queens and an Emperor (Ronald Gallegos) served as emcees as the contestants representing mainly Brazil, but also Africa, the Caribbean, and Central America vied for the titles, which included a \$500 cash prize for each winner. Playing up the pageantry of the evening, Mario Chacon, King of Carnaval 1994, paraded to the stage with a royal entourage decked out in regal court finery complete with powdered wigs.

Competitors were allowed three minutes to convince the ten judges, (all leaders of carnaval contingents), that the would-be royalty could handle dancing atop the lead Carnaval parade float, possessed carnaval spirit, had the right wardrobe and could win the audience's support. Performing to taped music or live percussion, the contestants in costumes that ranged from negligible to over-the-top gorgeous worked their moves on the stage and then descended

onto the floor to face the judges' panel. The audience filled with Carnaval aficionados and contestants' fans rallied the performers with applause, shouts, whistles, drumbeats and supportive dancing. Elizabeth Soberanes, competition Production Manager and Queen of Carnaval 2001, along with her hardworking crew, kept the well-organized evening on pace while still maintaining the party atmosphere.

(Continued on page 7)

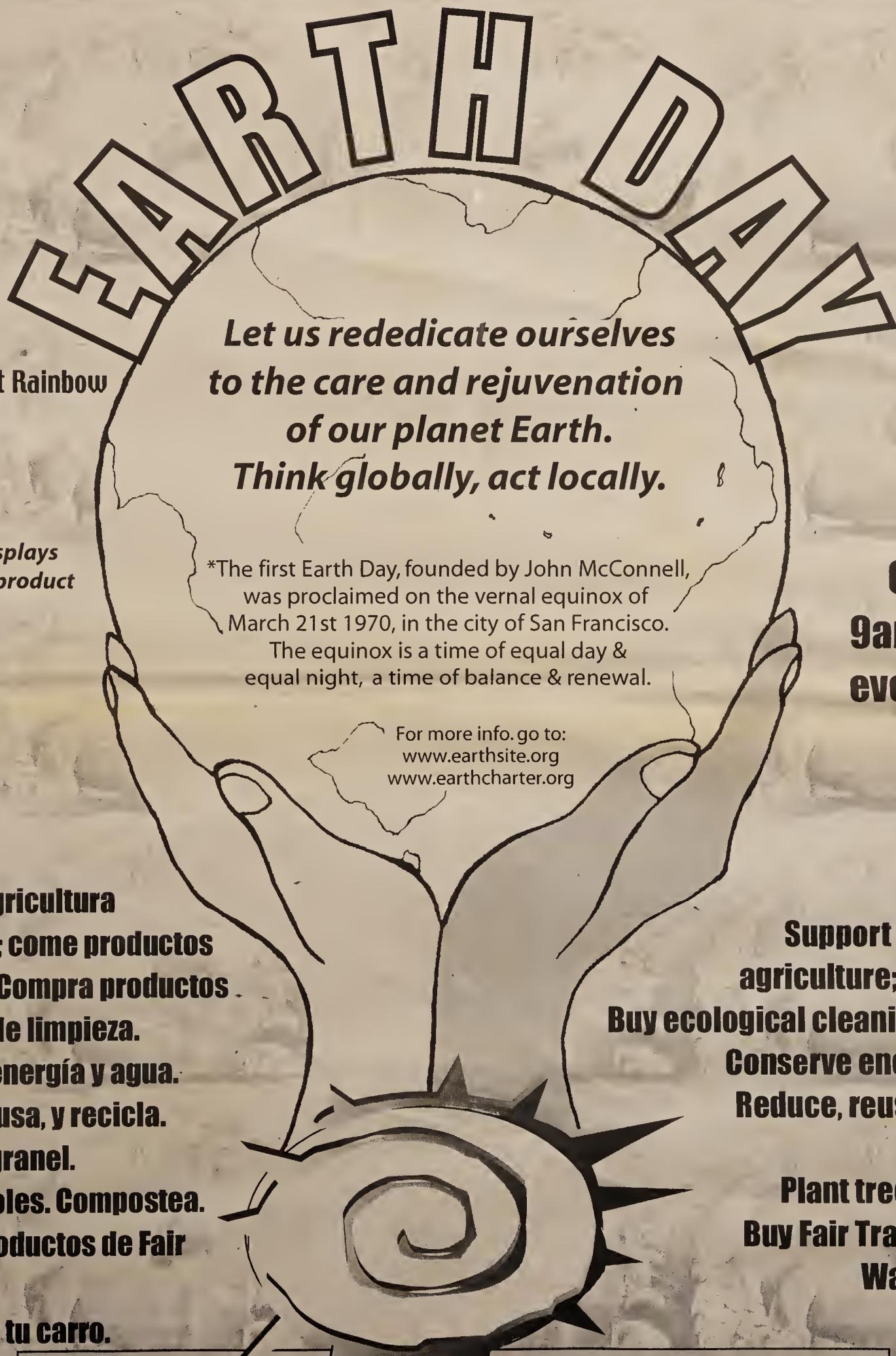
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Buy Fair Trade Products.
Walk & bicycle.**

**Rainbow will be closed Thursday May 1st
in honor of International Workers' Day**

GROCERY

ARRESTED MISSION FOR PEACE ANTIWAR SIGHTS

by josiah

As I was riding my bike home the other night, 5 a.m., I passed a woman on her own bike, her face brightly painted, wearing fluorescent-colored clothes, cellophane wings. She had a megaphone and was pontificating to the empty streets from her bike.

As I passed her, I couldn't help but smile and she asked back, "How you doing?" I replied, "Great, now that I'm out of jail." "Alright," she megaphoned back, "I, myself, was illegally detained yesterday."

Yes, dear friends, I just spent nine hours in custody, busted at a peace march as I legally rode my bike on Hayes Street, eventually charged with violation 21956 (a) "Pedestrian in the roadway." When I asked the cop why I was being arrested, she said: "I don't know."

You might say it was my own damned fault; that I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. But is a peace march really a wrong place? We were about 100 absolutely peaceful marchers. As the march went down the sidewalk of Market Street, chanting and waving banners, I rode my bike on the street alongside, reading the signs and saying hello to an occasional acquaintance. At one point, the marchers veered off course and were suddenly illegally in the middle of a side street. We were all instantly surrounded by 100 riot cops with drawn batons. No one was allowed to leave.

The next day, the San Francisco Chronicle lied: "After ordering protestors to clear the street or face arrest, police moved." No orders to disperse were issued. Most of the group, having been surrounded and not allowed to disperse, were later charged with "failure to disperse." I twice asked if I could leave and was told I could not. I naively wasn't afraid, for I had broken no laws. I wasn't blocking traffic, I WAS traffic.

My fault? I blame the Deputy Chief Rick Bruce, [who was] there giving orders to round everyone up, guilty or not. His boss, the Mayor, is not blameless, nor those just following his orders: the Station Captain, his Lieutenants, their Sergeants, right down to the platoons of patrol people, one of whom cuffed me and threw me into a jail-bound bus under a blood red setting sun. Read my rights? Yeah, right.

This is free speech, the right to assemble. This is the democracy we are exporting at the point of a sword?

We were taken via a gratuitously circuitous route to a makeshift holding pen in the garage of the big new county jail. In the bus

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If you go to one demonstration and then go home, that's something, but the people in power can live with that. What they can't live with is sustained pressure that keeps building, organizations that keep doing things, people that keep learning lessons from the last time and doing it better the next time....The struggle for freedom is never over.

Noam Chomsky

Bus stop, 22nd and Mission. A large crowd is waiting when the bus arrives, and people have to squeeze around a cop car that's parked in the bus stop. I notice a guy in a red T-shirt with the famous Che Guevara close-up, except the face is an ape, and above it is written "Revolution" with the "r" kind of blurred out. The guy's acting somehow furtive amid the milling crowd. He turns to leave, and the cop car has a big honkin' NO BLOOD FOR OIL sticker right on the driver's door.

Doorway, Valencia between 23rd and 22nd. Omer, the guy who plays guitar for quarters in doorways, is doing his thing, but not as usual. He's strumming the guitar with one hand and holding a cell phone to his ear with the other. "From George Dubya?" he says. "George W. Who? Oh. Okay. George? Hey, shut up, I'm payin' for this call. And I got sumpn' ta tell ya," Omer pauses. "Yer FIRED, asshole! Yeah! Because the LAST PLACE Saddam Hussein would be is BAGHDAD, asshole! So pack yer bags..."

850 Bryant. The week the war begins, two Missionites debarking from separate paddywagons recognize each other and yell, "La Misión, ¡presente!"

Bus stop, 24th and Valencia. Someone's painted an H on the street at the bus pull-in, so it reads STOP BUSH.

Anywhere. Longtime Mission activist and troublemaker John Ross pulling a snortag-size American flag out of his back pocket and blowing his nose in it.

Dolores Park. Anarchist video re-working of the trailer for *Lord of the Rings* in which the armies of Mordor are labeled in the subtitles "Riot Police," the archers confronting them the "Black Bloc," Gandalf "Noam Chomsky," et cetera. The Middle Earth gathering is aimed at smashing capitalism, especially free trade.

-Author's Name Withheld by Request

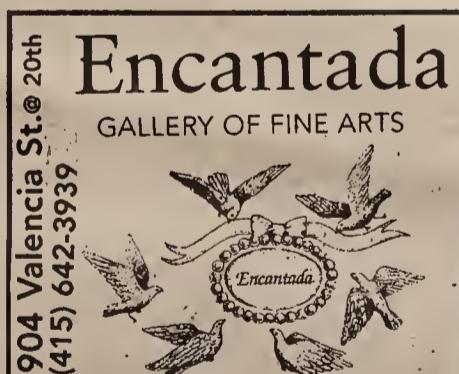


Photo courtesy of Department of Corrections

WHAT A SHAME

As America continues to press its "war of liberation" in Iraq, those who stand up in opposition to our country's involvement in that shameful adventure can expect to be challenged, from time to time, by a number of pseudo-patriotic arguments intended to dissuade them from expressing their dissent. A couple of these tired old lines, which we regularly hear on the radio or read in the newspapers, may have owned a certain validity during some American wars in the past, but they're not true in the present instance; and when we hear them today, we can be pretty sure the people advancing them are either woefully deceived, or not paying attention, or else they are lying through their teeth as they attempt to mislead the American people.

One such line goes like this:

"While you express your disloyalty to your country, our troops are risking their lives defending your freedom to protest."

That's just not true, not this time. In this war, unfortunately, our troops are risking their lives in furtherance of the private agenda of our country's current administration, an agenda which itself constitutes the greatest threat to individual liberty and freedom the American people have faced in more than half a century.

At the same time, we know our troops are not responsible for the injustice of the war they have been ordered to fight. Soldiers do not have the luxury of questioning or challenging orders, even when their faith and confidence in the rightness of their cause is assailed on every side by the evidence of their senses. In wartime, death is the price of disobedience in the military. We do not blame the soldiers on either side for this war. They are brave men and women facing difficult and dangerous circumstances.

On the other hand, great blame is due the politicians who have sent their countrymen into an unjust, expensive, cruel and unnecessary war, to satisfy the greed of a few rich men who already own too much of the world.

Another pseudo-patriotic line the pro-war propagandists are fond of goes something like this:

When you oppose the war, you betray our soldiers, denigrate their courage and dishonor their sacrifices by "failing to support them."

This line has a powerful appeal, especially to those with friends, relatives or loved ones in the armed services. And, indeed, many soldiers who returned from Vietnam thirty years ago were dismayed to find hostility intermixed with the widespread antiwar sentiment at home. Let us express ourselves with exceptional clarity this time, so that no one misunderstands: WE HATE THE WAR, NOT THE SOLDIERS. I believe I can say with confidence that not a single American among ten thousand who oppose this war wishes any harm to befall any member of our armed services. These brave soldiers are victims of the war, even as the Iraqis who suffer our invasion are victims and as the American taxpayers whose money was taken and used to pay for this war are victims. Newspaper polls notwithstanding, most Americans didn't want this war to start. Now that it has started, most of us want it to stop. It's that simple. And the politicians who started the war are the ones who could have, and should have, prevented it. The blame rests squarely on them, on the U.S. President who started the war and on the U.S. Congress that let him get away with it. No "Victory" justifies their actions. They have shamed our nation before the entire world.



Photo by Lex McCloud

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someone said, "They drove my buddy around yesterday for 3 hours just to f**k with him."

This country is liberating the police state of Iraq?

Upon arrival at the Hall of Justice, sheriffs first confiscated our cell phones. Why did they want this kept quiet? Someone kept his, ducked down in the middle of our pen and started calling his media contacts. Someone else snuck a hit off a joint. After about an hour standing in the cold in these pens we saw police helicopters overhead and then we heard a series of roars from outside: protesters had marched to the jail!

Finally we were led inside. By law, they had to feed us. "Steak or chicken?" they taunted as they threw stale cheese sandwiches at us and threw us into cells. I was placed in holding tank H-9 for the next 6 hours, but I was not alone. I was with twenty-five of the most eloquent, enlightened and funny people one could hope to meet. Diverse to the extreme, old, young, brown, black, white and pink, black block sympathizers and pacifists, 60s radicals and a 50s greaser ("grease for peace"); the guy who fought to the Supreme Court for our right to burn the flag and a guy who was just walking home from work; to a man, they were sharp as a hacksaw.

Some were pissed, some silent; rookies and grizzled vets. Immediately, amazing stories about the last couple days of protest were bouncing off the walls.

"Did you see the pukers for peace at the Federal Building?" Some of them took Ipecac to induce vomiting; others were so grossed out by the war they didn't have to."

"I saw a cop named Bacon."

"I was read my rights once. I think that was in Santa Cruz."

"How 'bout these H-9ers!"

A cop (Sheriff Sgt. Dorsey) had the good grace to tell us that we were going to be there a very long while. Someone asked: "Anyone got a story to tell?"

Someone else: "Anyone have any books memorized?"

"Ya know, there's actually a television show that puts people on an island with the point being to f**k each other over. It's called 'survival,' I think." How f**ked is that?"

"After marching for hours yesterday, when they took that turn up the mountain that is Nob Hill, I didn't think I could make it, and these kids with huge signs are just skipping by. There IS hope!"

A tall, older African-American dressed all in white with a bowler ringed with feathers, stood and sang a song of oppression: "The National Anathema." We demanded another and he gave us "Condoleezza (She serves her masters well.)"

After having sat in stony silence this whole time, a tough looking guy suddenly erupted: "I'm a five-striker, I don't need this, I never wanted to be back in prison, but I saw you people in the street and I had to join." He then launched a beautiful rap, about his experiences in prison, about prisoners' winning the right to have long hair, about the need for community everywhere, about theatre.

"We have to stand behind the women," he said. "We men been in charge too long and look how we f**ked it all up!" He condemned the cops' "customer service," then fell into a funny story about cold water. All this poured out of him for forty-five minutes straight. But they had confiscated everything else, so we had nothing but time.

HOUSE SPECIAL PIZZAS		
	SMALL	MEDIUM
1. CABLE CAR (COMBO)	11.95	15.75
Salami, Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, Bell Pepper, Onions		18.75
2. DOLORES PARK (VEG)	12.30	15.20
Mushroom, Onion, Fresh Tomato, Bell Pepper, Black Olive, Garlic		19.25
3. FISHERMAN'S WHARF (SEAFOOD)	11.35	13.65
Shrimp, Clam, Garlic		15.85
4. NOB HILL (CHICKEN)	11.75	15.75
Chicken, Mushrooms, Sun Dried Tomatoes, Onions		17.35
5. MISSION BELL (MEXICAN)	13.45	16.75
Ground Beef, Onion, Fresh Tomato, Black Olive, Jalapeños		18.65
6. PACIFIC HEIGHTS (ALL MEAT)	13.50	16.85
Ham, Beef, Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Sausage, Salami		19.95
7. SAN FRANCISCO	10.85	13.45
Artichoke Hearts, Fresh Tomato, Garlic, Sausage		17.10
8. HAWAIIAN SPECIAL	9.95	12.90
Canadian Bacon, Pineapple		14.10
9. ATHENS BY NIGHT (GREEK)	12.10	14.75
Spinach, Feta Cheese, Black Olives, Pesto, Basil		17.10
10. VALENCIA SPECIAL	11.85	13.85
Artichoke Hearts, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Garlic, Black Olives, Zucchini		15.85

PIZZAS		
	PLAIN CHEESE	TOPPING
1 TOPPING	7.95	9.95
2 TOPPINGS	8.75	11.15
3 TOPPINGS	9.85	12.35
EACH ADDITIONAL TOPPING	10.55	13.55
	.70	1.00
		1.40

TOPPINGS		
Salami • Pepperoni • Sausage • Ground Beef • Ham • Canadian Bacon	7.75	
Olives • Garlic • Zucchini • Fresh Spinach • Fresh Tomato • Onion • Pesto	8.65	
Baby Clams • Chicken • Anchovies • Shrimp • Feta Cheese • Bell Peppers	8.95	
Mushroom • Roasted Red Bell Peppers • Jalapeño • Pineapple • Artichoke	9.85	
	10.65	
	9.85	
	8.75	
	9.95	
	8.85	
	9.65	

PASTA		
SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE	7.75	
CHEESE RAVIOLI	8.65	
RAVIOLI MEATSauce	8.95	
ANGEL-HAIR POMORODE	7.65	
FETTUCCINI ALFREDO	8.75	
FETTUCCINI PESTO	8.75	
FRUTTI DI MARE	10.65	
CHICKEN+BETTUCCINI	9.85	
LASAGNA BOLOGNESE	8.95	
VEGETARIAN LASAGNA	8.75	
LINGUINI CLAMS	9.95	
STUFFED MANICOTTI	8.85	
TORTELLINI FLORENTINI	9.65	

ENTREES		
RED SNAPPER	9.65	
GRILLED SALMON	10.25	
PRAWNS SAUTÉ	11.25	
FRIED PRAWNS	9.85	
CHICKEN MARSALA	9.75	
CHICKEN PARMEGIANA	9.95	
CHICKEN PICATA	10.95	
MARINATED GRILLED CHICKEN	8.25	
CHICKEN SCALLOPPINI	10.95	
PEPPERCORN STEAK	12.50	
NEW YORK STEAK	11.95	

APPETIZERS		
MOZZARELLA STICKS	4.50	
BUFFALO WINGS	4.85	
FRIED CALAMARI	6.25	
GARLIC BREAD	2.25	

SALADS		
CAESAR SALAD	5.95	
HOUSE SALAD	3.75	
GRILLED CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD	6.75	
SHRIMP SALAD	6.25	

RISOTTO		
CHICKEN RISOTTO	8.20	
<i>Diced chicken with mushroom, carrots, onions and herbs in rice</i>		
RISOTTO DI FRESCO	7.50	
<i>Fresh vegetables in a primavera sauce and rice</i>		
RISOTTO DE CARNE	8.20	
<i>Steak strips with mushrooms, onion & herbs in rice</i>		
SEAFOOD RISOTTO	8.85	

"I really just want my belt," the guy who had been walking home from work said, holding up his pants.

Jonah: "I'm not about religion, but this is from the Bible: One goes through the whale, as we are going through this process, and one must learn from it."

A younger guy had been pretty badly beaten up when arrested: glasses broken, serious bruises and scrapes. He was the most gentle, certainly the thinnest of us. Later, as I was learning the outrageous lies that were my charges, I almost exploded, but this guy calmed me down.

Nine hours after being detained, 6 hours in the holding tank, a sheriff showed up and read the names of the first prisoners to be released: "Freedman?" he called -- but there was no freed man in our cell.

Half an hour and the man comes back, opens the door, we gather 'round. "Is there a Freedman here?" he called out.

Another half hour, it's two-thirty a.m., the door opens: "Freedman?" Some curse, some laugh, someone says, "In some cell somewhere, poor Freedman is languishing."

Finally, at 5 in the a.m., we were let go. Lined up for thumbprints, we were a diverse group: short, tall, multi-color, and a sheriff sarcastically spewed: "What a cornucopia!" To which the protestor who they beat up earlier calmly replied: "Yes, people of all types are protesting this war."

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Outside, property having been rifled and returned, we gathered on the pre-dawn sidewalk where Food Not Bombs had left some bottled water and bags of bagels. A Lawyers Guild representative took names and court dates. A contact list was drawn up, H-9 was organized and then we were told we risked more serious charges if busted again in the next 48 hours. I saw many H-9 alumni at the protest the next day. On the news that night, there was footage of one of them leading a group in a civil disobedience action.

The cost of the first 25 Tomahawk missiles launched in the first hour of the first day in the war with Iraq was more than fifty times the annual HUD budget to End Homelessness in America.

-CNN 3-20-03

DAY LABOR PAINS

By Fran Taylor

The Day Labor Program won a victory early this year when the Planning Commission unanimously approved the program's move to a site on Cesar Chavez near Mission Street. Several conditions tempered the victory, however, including a requirement that the program search for a larger space within a year.

After postponing the approval hearing six times, on January 16 the Commission listened to several hours of testimony from program staff and workers, supportive neighbors, hostile neighbors, community activists, and police (Deputy Chief Greg Suhr and Mission Captain Greg Corrales).

The Day Labor Program has been operating out of two trailers in Franklin Park, at Bryant and 17th Streets, for more than a decade. The trailers lack running water and, most important, they are located more than a mile away from the center of day laborer activity. For years, a few vocal neighbors have complained about the day laborers who stand, waiting for work, along the Cesar Chavez corridor. A hiring hall could reduce their public presence on the streets, but these same neighbors have also opposed relocation of the current office in what they consider "a residential area," although it includes gas stations, auto repair shops and other mixed uses. Instead, they propose a site east of the freeway maze, possibly along the Bayshore corridor.

Supportive neighbors at the Planning Commission hearing pointed out that the area east of the freeway is a transit desert. Most day laborers do not drive, and many live in the Mission or in shelters or SROs in SOMA or downtown. No transit runs along Cesar Chavez east of Bryant Street, and the walkways are not safe. In places, pedestrians must dash across freeway ramps. The proposal put forward by NIMBY (not in my back yard) neighbors and police includes a shuttle to move the workers through the freeway maze, an acknowledgment that you can't get there from here without a car or considerable physical agility and courage.

A speaker from the Day Labor Program described the process of job assignment, stressing that the workers typically go out to jobs on public transportation using tokens given out by the program. The site on Cesar Chavez and Mission (where the men gather now) is on several bus lines, and is just a few blocks from 24th Street BART Station; east of the freeway, on the other hand, bus lines are few and far between.

City departments have so far been most responsive to a small core of hostile homeowners, in a neighborhood with a large population of poor and working tenants and many people of color. At their request, the police have stepped up citation of the workers for jaywalking or blocking traffic when they step off the curb into a contractor's truck.

Several of the commissioners, as well as the hostile neighbors, spoke of the proposed Home Depot site on Bayshore Blvd. as an ideal location for the Day Labor Program, seemingly oblivious to the strong opposition to Home Depot in Bernal Heights. The appropriateness of tying a public program to a corporate chain was not debated. A supporter of the Day Laborers joked that workers could just be put on a shelf next to drills, sheetrock, etc., as one more commodity to be picked up.

The 'neighborly opposition' presented themselves as the voice of the neighborhood, while many residents from along the Cesar Chavez corridor were equally vociferous in their support of the Day Labor Program. The hostiles seemed unable to swallow the fact that they live in a gritty, urban environment and not in a gated community. While their less-wealthy neighbors are busy with survival, this core group apparently has time to go to endless small community meetings, circulate petitions against the laborers and schmooze with police.

A speaker from the Bernal Dwellings described how a woman had come to a meeting of Dwellings residents, and misled them into signing a petition that was then touted as proof of neighborhood opposition to the day laborers. Even small children had been encouraged to sign. The speaker was quite angry at how the woman had tricked the residents and then never returned calls [requesting that she] come back and explain herself.

In one of the more ironic results of the whole process, the Planning Commission agreed to the hostile neighbors' demands for a traffic safety survey of the area. Neighbors in the Bernal Dwellings and all along the Cesar Chavez corridor have complained for years to the DPT and other city agencies about rampant speeding, red-light running, and dangerous pedestrian conditions, but no improvements have ever been made; and "traffic calming" meetings held in Bernal Heights have pointedly excluded Cesar Chavez from consideration. Now, by contrast, the city jumped to comply with requests from a few neighbors seemingly concerned that double-parked contractors might slow down their own cars.

The recent death of a four-year-old girl, hit by a truck on the sidewalk of Potrero Avenue (around the corner from Cesar Chavez), has galvanized the community into demanding real traffic safety along the entire Potrero/Bayshore/Cesar Chavez corridor. Will the neighbors who used traffic safety as a smokescreen to attack the Day Labor Program now come out and support a genuine effort to provide protection for pedestrians and safety for drivers in their neighborhood?

Fran Taylor, ftaylor@cmp.com.

TEL: (415) 431-7516



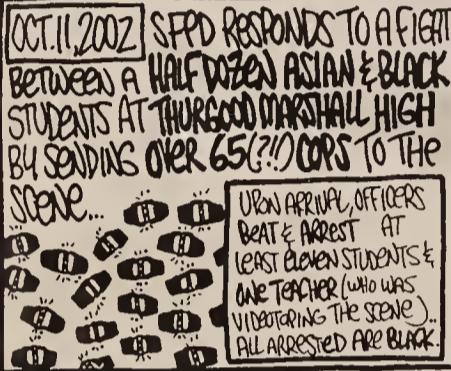
The K CHRONICLES

COP QUIZ:

CAN YOU GUESS WHICH INCIDENT RESULTED IN THE INDICTMENTS OF TEN MEMBERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPT...INCLUDING THE CHIEF & AN ASSISTANT CHIEF?

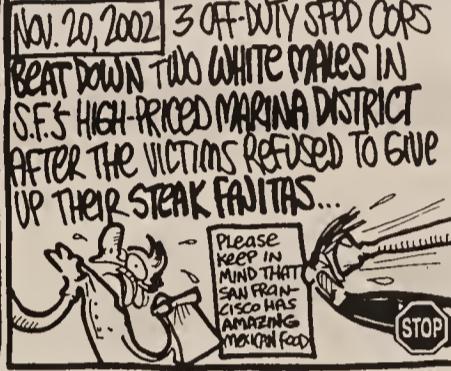


ON MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, FOUR BLACK CHILDREN ARE HELD AT GUNPOINT & BRUTALIZED BY OFFICERS IN S.F.'S BAYVIEW/HUNTERS PT. DISTRICT.. UPON REALIZING THE KIDS DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, OFFICERS LEAVE...



SFPD RESPONDS TO A FIGHT BETWEEN A HALF DOZEN ASIAN & BLACK STUDENTS AT THURGOOD MARSHALL HIGH BY SENDING OVER 65(!!) COPS TO THE SCENE...

UPON ARRIVAL, OFFICERS BEAT & ARREST AT LEAST ELEVEN STUDENTS & ONE TEACHER (WHO WAS VIDEOTAPING THE SCENE)... ALL ARRESTED ARE BLACK.



3 OFF DUTY SFPD COPS BEAT DOWN TWO WHITE MALES IN S.F.'S HIGH-PRICED MARINA DISTRICT AFTER THE VICTIMS REFUSED TO GIVE UP THEIR STEAK FAJITAS...

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Following a mass release of prisoners in Russia two years ago, the United States surged into first place with the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world. Yes, although just 5% of the world's population lives in this country, with 2,071,686 persons incarcerated we have about a quarter of the world's prisoners.

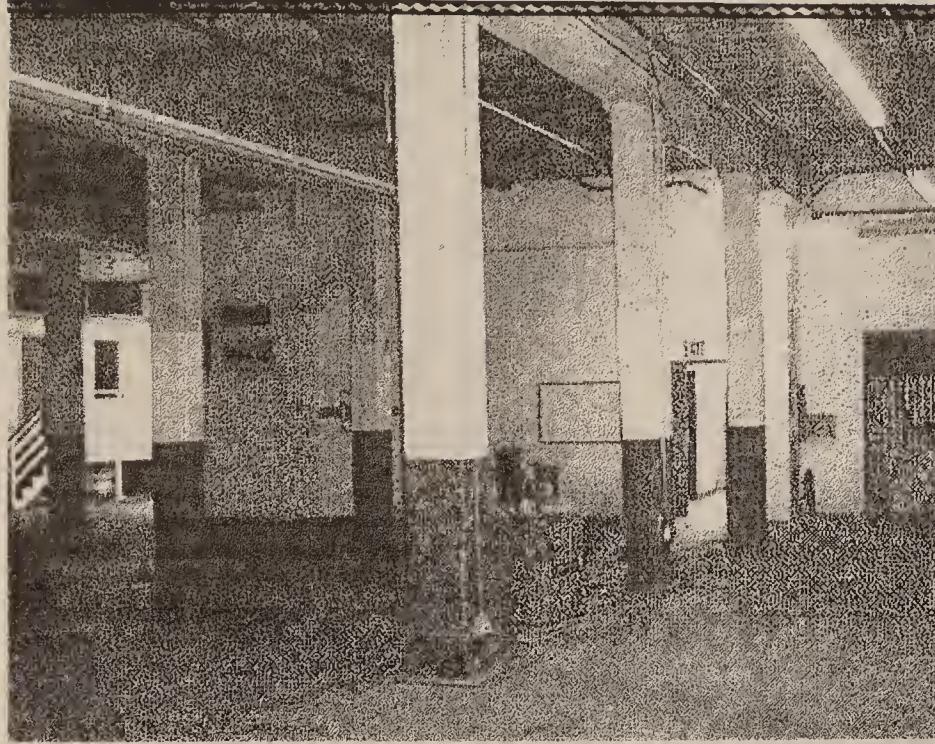
Along with these hefty numbers come big bills. It cost Americans \$25.96 billion to imprison 1.3 million non-violent offenders in the year 2000, 50% more than the entire \$16.6 billion the federal government spent on welfare programs that serve 8.5 million people. What types of crimes are these offenders convicted of? Sixty percent of the growth in the federal prison population over the last twenty years has been due to drug offender commitments. In Oklahoma, 43 percent of offenders in 2001 were convicted of drug and alcohol crimes. While the department of corrections seeks more funding, the state has had to make budget cuts across the board, forcing state lawmakers to restructure non-violent drug offender sentences and decriminalize smaller possession charges for first-time offenders. The problem won't go away on its own, and there seems to be no end in sight.

Or is there? Could it be that, after years of ham-handed interference in the private lives of its citizens, our country may soon begin seriously to consider repealing its repressive drug laws because we have finally realized that the cost enforcing them is just too damn expensive? Maybe laissez-faire liberals and fiscal conservatives can at last experience a meeting of the minds on this issue and agree that we'll all be better off without today's anti-drug laws. The money saved in this country alone would amount to hundreds of billions.

And collateral benefits abound! Illegal drug dealers would find themselves out of business overnight, while drug users would no longer have to rely on illicitly manufactured, overpriced drugs. Yes, since all of the commonly "abused" drugs are out of patent, no pharmaceutical company would have any excuse to charge exorbitant prices for them; and if they did, free-market competition would make them available elsewhere at a more reasonable price. And the crime rate, already significantly reduced by eliminating laws against drug possession, will decline even further as junkies no longer have to steal to support their habits.

No change in any law could benefit our country as greatly as this one. The result would be a win-win situation, economically speaking, and God knows we are going to need all the good economic ideas we can find to survive the upcoming Depression the rich folks have engineered for us by stealing all the money.

ART SPACE OPENS UP



by Joe Donohoe

A new home for artisans is opening in the Mission. Located at 744 Alabama, a three-story warehouse known as Workspace is offering artists, performers, artisans and non-profits studio space at "below market" rates. That translates to less than a dollar a square foot in a 54,000 square-foot building. The Workspace Limited Organization (contact at www.workspacelimited.org) declares their intention to provide affordable space for artisans with meager incomes in a tough urban market. This will, they say, do at least one small thing to help preserve the San Francisco arts community that suffered so heavily during the dot.com boom.

Kevin Thompson, an English guitar maker who has resided and worked in the Mission for 12 years, says that now is the

time for non-profits and artists to acquire spaces, while rents are relatively low. "We haven't seen rates like this since 1985." Thompson is one of the individuals doing the necessary legwork to put the space together. A group of architects and other professionals have also contributed their services *pro bono*.

Escorting *New Mission News'* writer around the building, Thompson pointed out various features of Workspace. "We have hardwood floors on the second and third stories, and concrete in the basement. That means you could have heavy machinery downstairs, and art studios up here."

From the outside, seven forty-four Alabama looks like just another North East Mission warehouse; however, in the last decade it was taken over and completely retrofitted by a dot.com company that met fire code standard requirements while

installing centralized HVAC, a cutting edge communications backbone, and low-energy track lighting. The building is wheelchair accessible and has two elevators (one for freight).

"Look at all this wire," said Thompson, indicating the tracks of cable snaking below the ceiling joists. "That must have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars." He led the *News* reporter to a partially walled-off section of the second floor. "When the repo men came, they left all of that and took the two servers that were here. That was probably the most expensive stuff they could find that was portable. A lot of stuff just got left behind." There was a vacant area where it looked like two network servers indeed had once been. The feeds hung abandoned between aluminum studs. The dot.com that was located at this space had been in the business of writing business plans for other dot.coms.

The top floor of the building looked much like the rest: parceled sheet rock dividing floor space, an office encased in glass, pastel themes and skylights. "We'll probably paint white over the pastels and let the artists do whatever they want with it," said Thompson. "I like this area back here." The western half of the top floor had never been completely retrofitted; it consists of a lot of exposed ferro-concrete and open space looking out over Harrison Street.

"We're going to let the pro-bono architects work with all of this and subdivide or re-divide based on who we get in here. We have a community access cable TV station that is interested, and a number of photographers. We want to accommodate the artists. Ideally, we're going to try and have a quiet half of the building and a noisy half, based on what people do, and we're going to have to work on the sound proofing."

A savings account has been set up for investors interested in eventually buying the building and maintaining it permanently as an affordable art space.

DONATE CELLPHONES TO AID VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION PARTICIPATES IN "DONATE A PHONE" CAMPAIGN

Cell phone drive gives victims of domestic violence in the SF community hope.

San Francisco Federal Credit Union's CommunityShare Program, in conjunction with the El Camino and San Francisco Chapters of the California Credit Union League (CCUL), will be hosting a cell phone drive April 14th through May 23rd at all of their credit union branches. All donated phones will be distributed to victims of domestic violence in the San Francisco Community via the Wireless Foundation and CALL to PROTECT.

The Wireless Foundation estimates there are as many as 24 million unused, inactive wireless phones laying around in people's homes and businesses. Now there is a way to put them to work helping victims of domestic violence. Through the "Donate a Phone" campaign, used wireless phones will be collected and donated to domestic violence victims to give them a way to get help quickly when they need it.

Sponsored by Motorola, "Donate a Phone" is part of CALL to PROTECT, a national program that provides domestic violence victims with phones preprogrammed with emergency numbers to access help with the touch of a button.

The program has set a goal of collecting one million used wireless phones from the public. You can donate used or broken cell phones from April 14, 2003 through May 23, 2003 to any of the three credit union branches. Branch locations and hours can be found at www.SanFranciscoFCU.com. Call 415-775-5377, ext. 4 for locations.

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* APY (Annual Percentage Yield) fixed for stated term of 7 months. APY offered only on 7-month certificates opened from 4/1/03 to 4/30/03; subject to change without notice. Minimum opening balance: \$2,500; maximum opening balance: \$25,000. Early withdrawal penalty applies. One certificate per member under this special offer. Must join San Francisco FCU to be eligible for this offer. Individuals who live, work, worship, or attend school in SF may join. No membership fee. A \$100 deposit in a membership savings account required for membership.

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CARNAVAL CORONATION

(continued from page one)

Some highlights of the competition included: Jorge Duarte's fantastic samba foot work; Kulwa Mawusi Apara's acrobatic mid-air leaps; Wilfred Mark's devilishly bare costume; Douglas da Silva and Eduardo Vargas proving that men can wear sequins and feathers; Marta Santos's gyrating afro reggae routine; Mary Dollar and Samuka's regal roleplaying; Iya Silva's Rio ostrich plumage; Arose Bahia Umar-Bey's Afro Brazilian moves spiced with sassy hiphop; and Raffaela Falchi's shimmy that reflected her performances with Queen Maisa's Energia da Samba.

Although the mood of the evening was essentially euphoric, several emcees and winners expressed hopes for peace and the safe return of the troops fighting in the Iraqi war. Lester Britt, third place runner up for King, started his performance in camouflage gear to the strains of "War, What Is It Good for?" then ducked behind a No War banner before emerging in a breezy white tropical suit and segueing to a traditional Carnaval beat. Another contestant for King, Manuel Demoussy, dressed like a Candomble priest in ceremonial, pure-white Bahian cotton performed a dance of peace dedicated to the orixas, Yoruba deities worshipped by the African slaves who were brought to Brazil.

In addition to the competition, Mary Dollar, co-founder of Samba da Coracao, was honored with a special recognition award for her 25 years of performing career. Mission Neighborhood Center's Executive Director, Sam Ruiz, presented the award to Mary who was also first runner up in the Queen competition. Roberto Hernandez, Carnaval Artistic Director, talked of his fear of a few years ago that Carnaval SF might not grow and prosper among the youth, but he happily noted that one of the queen contestants, Arose Bahia Umar-Bey just turned 18. He also recognized two young musicians as the next generation of Carnavalescos.

Carlos Aceituno, Artistic Director of Fogo Na Roupa (Clothes on Fire) and Randy Chavez, musician and artist, assembled a Carnaval SF All-Star Bateria with members from Bay Area Brazilian percussion ensembles. The All-Stars had the contestants and spectators jamming on the dance floor and in the aisles. DJ Spincycle filled any musical gaps with popular Latin world beat picks. The outgoing King and Queen wowed the crowd with the last performance.

Jan McDermott wrote the March installment of Carnaval Countdown for the New Mission News, although her byline was not printed. We wish to apologize for its inadvertent omission.

mances of their reign. Norberto Martinez performed a dramatic contemporary routine with the Pure Dance Company. And Maisa Duke brought the house down as she dazzled with the Carnaval All-Stars. Theo, King of Carnaval 2001, joined Maisa on stage for a hot farewell samba.

Then it was time to turn over the tiaras and pass out the bouquets as the three runners up and the winners for Carnaval San Francisco King and Queen 2003 were announced.

3rd Runners Up for King & Queen:

Lester Britt and Marta Santos

2nd Runners Up for King & Queen:

Samuka and Kulwa Mawusi Apara

1st Runners Up for King & Queen:

Jorge Duarte and Mary Dollar

WINNERS FOR 2003:

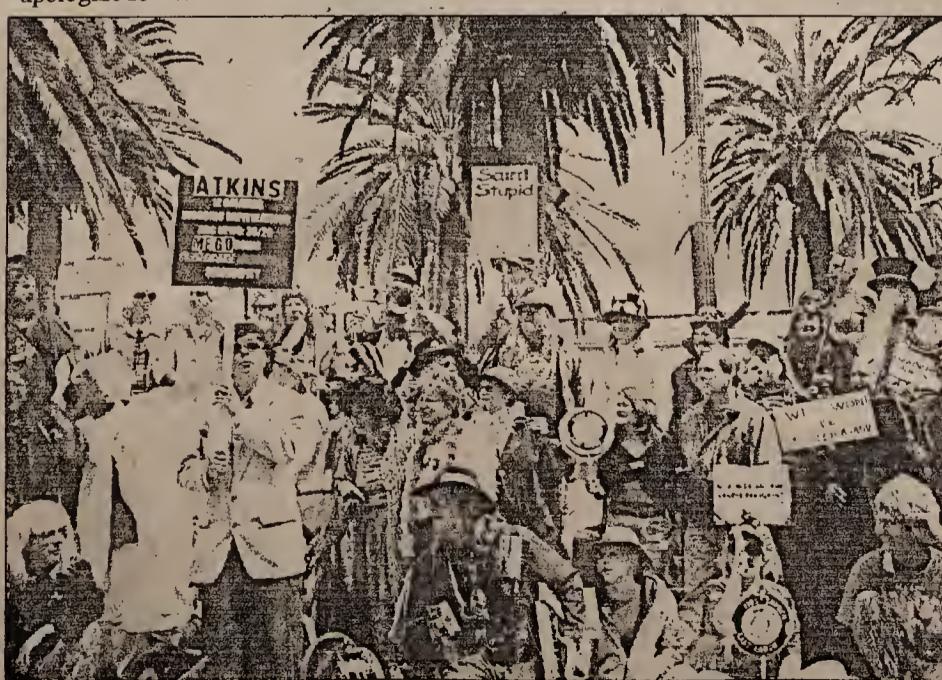


King of Carnaval: Antonio Naranjo



Queen of Carnaval: Iya Silva

installment of Carnaval Countdown for the New Mission News, although her byline was not printed. We wish to apologize for its inadvertent omission.



UNDER THE PALMS of the Embarcadero on April Fools' Day, participants gathered for the 25th Annual SAINT STUPID'S DAY PARADE. Seems like everything turns 25 this year, MISSION CULTURAL CENTER, S.F. CARNAVAL, ST. STUPID and the S.F. LESBIAN & GAY FREEDOM BAND, to name a few.

What went on 25 years ago to spark such a prolific spawning?

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Monday to Friday 9:30 - 6:30
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Sunday 11:00 - 5:30

A POSITIVE SPIN ON NEWS

"Positive Spin" is a television program that presents positive, innovative, and solution-oriented news, promoting a better world for present and future generations. The show has been airing for five years in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the Westside of Los Angeles. "Positive Spin" is produced by Unity Foundation, a San Francisco based non-profit organization with a 28-year history of promoting world peace, cooperation and unity.

The April 2003 "Positive Spin" program features an address by Dr. Robert Muller entitled "The Role of the United Nations in Preserving Planet Earth." Dr. Muller is a former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations who served under 3 UN Secretaries General. The April program also features Prem Rawat's address on inner peace to people from 41 nations at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

"Positive Spin" will air in the Bay Area: Marin County - Thursday, April 24th 7:00 PM on cable channel 26.

Mid-Peninsula - Saturday, April 19th & 26th at 6:30 PM on cable channel 27.

San Francisco - on cable channel 29

For more information concerning Unity Foundation's "Positive Spin" television program, please visit the foundation's website at www.unityfoundation.org and review the section on "Positive Spin".

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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT

Paul Romo

It Takes a Village

EVERY SATURDAY from 9 am 'til 4 pm, Mission Village Market transforms the block of Florida Street between 18th and 19th into a community marketplace, beginning with their grand re-opening last Saturday.

Except for the six steel rollup doors, Mission Village Market's Community Arts Center bears little resemblance to the vehicle rental business that used to inhabit the space. While that company helped the people who were forced out to move their belongings out of town, the new tenants encourage those who've been able to stay to join in the revitalization of the area.

Inside the Center, a new full-service cafe will help them toward their goal of "creating a self-sustaining local economy while building a strong community."

The weekly Market will feature regionally grown produce, international food, antiques, collectibles and 'pre-owned' objects; in other words, it's a combined flea market and farmer's market. The project began, according to Mission Village Market's Joel Comstock, "...because of a fund raiser needed by Cellspace, and a general need for a local marketplace in the Mission."

In addition to offering economic opportunity to local artists and entrepreneurs, the Market hopes to provide networking opportunities for social justice, environmental action, alternative transportation and community sustainability, all of which will directly benefit the life and well being of the neighborhood.

Proactive steps to reduce waste are also part of the weekly event, which offers recycling, composting and dishwashing areas. In consideration of its environmental effect, Comstock says, music will be kept at a respectable volume. "City officials were sort of reluctant [regarding the potential for noise]. What we're hoping to do is build momentum with singer-songwriters and acoustic musicians, which will lower the noise level."

Through numerous publicity campaigns, posters, flyers, email and database mailings to other art organizations, as well as word-of-mouth all over the Bay Area, information about the event has spread far and wide.

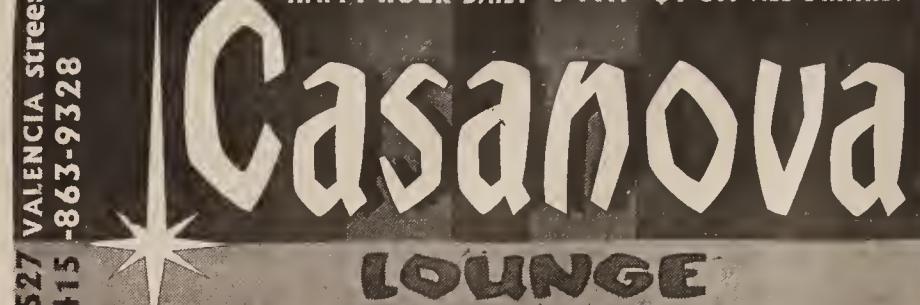
Comstock explained that although he is fairly new to the flea market world, he has found "a large network out there. If one person talks about something or spreads information, there is a good chance that 10 people will hear about it and pass it on throughout the flea market community."

A pleasant variety of results are possible whether you come to pick up or unload merchandise.

Rounding out the event are a Children's Craft Center and Puppet Show, a Used Bike and Fix-it Shop, a Live World Music DJ and a recently built Cinema for film screenings. Comstock emphasized that, after building alliances and networking within the neighborhood, "...we see tremendous potential for a market like this."

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Mission Market Village 2949 18th Street

(@ Florida) SF CA 94110

<http://www.cellspace.org/market/>

email: market@cellspace.org

For market, vendor and volunteer information call (415) 643-3469

Back in the Picture

When John Brooman packed up his Guerrero Street art gallery, he knew someday he'd return, but he never anticipated such a resounding welcome. Moving back home, 66 Balmy Annex returned to its old address in January 2003, re-establishing lone occupancy, free of roommates or other company.

"The gallery is welcome on this corner. There is a tremendous amount of support. Everyone said, 'we're so glad you guys are back'. We've been very lucky, in that respect."

With limited space for new artists at main gallery 66 Balmy on mural-lined Balmy Alley, the owner felt it was important to give artists who had previously exhibited there added exposure.

In some cases there's been a crossover. For artist Courtney Booker, whose work hangs in both galleries simultaneously, this allows audiences on both sides of the Mission to choose between viewing her pieces in an active or intimate setting. Booker uses found and recycled materials in some of her pieces and sometimes recycles images from her previous work. Her illustrations are slightly reminiscent of *Moonlight Chronicles* artist and fanzine travel editor Dan Price who, like her, has also done ad

work for shoe and clothing companies.

"There would be 300-400 people who came to the alley shows, so it worked out well but it doesn't have the constant foot traffic that [the Guerrero location] does."

Commonly, artists approach the gallery directly, Brooman explains, because there is a certain regard associated with its name. It's as casual as space itself. Opening the front door, you have the feeling of stepping into your neighbor's cool, funky living room. And, because there is virtually no advertising, people hear about the space through friends or, on their way to somewhere else, they unexpectedly land on the doorstep and just pop in.

In the past, the space has been home to a variety of studios, including pioneer Round World Music which used the spot to run their mail order business.

Although the Annex has not had a proper grand re-opening celebration, Brooman nonetheless understands the positive impact 66 Balmy Annex has on the community, its artists, himself and his staff.

"We see ourselves as part of the increased energy at 18th and Guerrero."

Jetstreams Reception: Friday, April 11, 7:00-10:00 pm at 66 Balmy Alley Main Gallery, Works by: Courtney Booker,

Jane Mount Gallery Hours: Thurs-Mon.

11am - 5pm April 11-27, 2003. 66balmy

gallery, 66 Balmy Alley (btwn. 24th/25th

& Treat/Harrison) www.66balmy.com

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MISSION CALENDAR

APRIL / EARLY MAY 2003 A.D.

ONGOING EVENTS

On view in the Main Library's Skylight Gallery April 1 through May 25: materials drawn from the Schmulowitz Collection of Wit & Humor (SCOWAH), which is located in the Library's Book Arts & Special Collections Center. SCOWAH is a rich resource of *New Yorker* stories, novels, humorous pieces, cartoons, and biography. Nat Schmulowitz — attorney, bibliophile and Library trustee — presented the San Francisco Public Library with a gift of 93 volumes of jest books in 1947. Since then, the collection has grown to over 20,000 volumes in 35 languages spanning 400 years of wit & humor. SCOWAH is the largest public collection of its kind in the United States. Skylight Gallery hours are: Sunday 12-5; Monday 10-6; Tuesday through Thursday 9-6; Friday 12-6; and Saturday 10-6.

Moment's Notice is a collective collage to be created at Galería de la Raza between April 16th and May 2nd. To create it, Galería will use a radically open exhibiting system: artists are invited to bring hang-ready 2D art addressing their most pressing thoughts and concerns about our times, then choose a spot on the wall and add their piece to the collective wallscape. Opening reception May 17 at Galeria De La Raza, 2857 24th St., 7-10pm (free). Exhibit Hours: Wed.-Sat., 12-6 pm, Thurs 'til 8 pm. Info: 415-826-8009 or www.galeriadeleraza.org

Code Blue at the Genome Zoo, a World-Premiere Play by Tony-Nominated Playwright Barbara Damashek, commissioned by the Exploratorium in conjunction with Traits of Life, a new permanent collection. Code Blue sheds entertaining light on the hidden and sometimes microscopic world of laboratory science and genetic research, staged with imagination, whimsy and song. Weekends April 5 & 6, 12 & 13, 19 & 20, 26 & 27; May 3 & 4 and Saturday, May 10 at 2pm. Free with museum admission. Reservations recommended. Call (415) 561-0308 10am-4pm or go to www.exploratorium.edu/pr/genomezoo.html

Printmaking Without Borders/Grabado Sin Fronteras: April 10-May 16. A cultural exchange exhibition featuring over 50 printmakers from Estampería Quiteña, Quito, Ecuador, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA, and the Mission Cultural Center. Reception Friday, April 11, 7pm - 9 pm, Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street.

Youth Exhibition in all Media from the Mission: April 11- May 16. See work by emerging artists (ages 16-26) in the Inti-Raymi Gallery at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street. Gala Reception Friday, April 11, 7-9 pm.

The California Palace of the Legion of Honor Museum presents Leonardo da Vinci and the Splendor of Poland all month Go on Tuesday and it's free! 750- 3614

RECURRING EVENTS

MONDAYS

INDEPENDENT EXPOSURE will occur the LAST MONDAY of EVERY MONTH through October 27th at 111 Minna Gallery. The program will begin at 8pm. Admission is \$5.00 and is reserved for audiences 21 years and older. 111 Minna Gallery is located at, you guessed it, 111 Minna Street (at 2nd). 415-864-0660 or <http://www.microcinema.com>.

POET AS RADIO: A POETRY WORKSHOP taught by Sarah Rosenthal, 7 - 9:30 pm every Monday until April 14th, Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, Sliding scale. Info: www.sarahrosenthal.net or call 621-8160.

THE MONDAY NIGHT HOOT, Local Songwriters Showcase, Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market, 9:30pm, \$5. 861-5016



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GRABADOS SIN FRONTERAS PRINTMAKING WITHOUT BORDERS

Printmaking Without Borders
Grabado Sin Fronteras
An exciting, first time cultural exchange exhibition involving printmakers from the Estampería Quiteña (Quito, Ecuador) and Kala Art Institute (Berkeley, California). About fifty works will be flown to the U.S. from Quito for exhibition in the San Francisco Bay Area in April/May 2003: The Ecuadorian artwork will be presented with works by the multi-cultural artists from Kala Art Institute.

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Whan...the yonge sonne hath in the Ram his halfe cours yronne...-g.c.

TUESDAYS

The California Palace of the Legion of Honor Museum is free every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 5 pm. 750-3614

Haitian and Cuban Percussion Classes with Master Percussionist Carlos Aldama. Classes are offered free of charge for ages 16 & up. Students must bring their own percussion instrument. Intermediate: 8-9:30pm Beginners: 6:30-8 pm Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 821-1155

WEDNESDAYS

Haitian and Cuban Percussion Classes with Master Percussionist Zeke Nealy. Classes are offered free of charge for ages 16 & up. Students must bring their own percussion instrument. Intermediate: 8-9:30 pm Beginners: 6:30-8 pm Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission 821-1155

THURSDAYS

Preschool Storytime at Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett Street, 10:10 am, free.

SATURDAYS

MISSION VILLAGE MARKET, the Mission's only indigenous flea market, is free, open to the public every Saturday from 10 am 'til 4 pm, and is located at 2948 18th Street @ Florida. 643-3469

Family Storytime in Spanish at Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett, 12 noon, free.

Haitian and Cuban Percussion Classes with Master Percussionist Carlos Aldama. Classes are offered free of charge for ages 16 & up. Students must bring their own percussion instrument. Intermediate: 11:30am-1 pm; Beginners: 10 am-11:30 am Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 821-1155Aldama.

APRIL 2003

4 FRIDAY

MINGUS AMUNGUS under the direction of MILES PERKINS plus guest DJ DNA DAN. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10pm, \$8. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

5 SATURDAY

MISSION VILLAGE MARKET, the Mission's own homegrown flea market, celebrates a grand re-opening on APRIL 5th and is free and open to the public every Saturday thereafter from 10am-4pm ! Mission Village Market 2948 18th Street @ Florida. Contact Maya 415.643.3469

LOS MOCOSOS plus DJSOULSALAAM, ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$8, adv. at ticketweb.com and mysterymachineproductions.com. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

RENEE RISQUE AND THE ART LOVERS. CAFÉ DU NORD, 2170 Market, 9pm,\$8. 861-5016

6 SUNDAY

Mathematician and artist Bob Burnside will lead Exploratorium visitors through a demonstration of "Geometricks," the creation of their own three-dimensional mathematical models. Whatever Geometricks participants build, they can take with them, all materials provided. Noon-2pm, The Exploratorium, free w/adm

MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

11 FRIDAY

STRONG CURRENT Dance Company performs at Dance Mission Theater, 3316-24th Street @Mission, at 8:00pm. Tickets are \$14 with reservations and \$16 at the door. For reservations call 415-273-4633.

LAND OF NOD, MELLOW DRUNK, CHARLES ATLAS, CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market St., 8 pm, \$8. 861-5016

BOOMSHANKA with special guest DJ ZEPH. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm - \$8. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE at **NEW COLLEGE of CALIFORNIA** presents **DRAG ATTACK!!** and **CAVE IN CAVE OUT** tonight, tomorrow and Sunday at New College Theater, 777 Valencia, 8 pm, \$10-15, no one turned away. A Rock-Theater Double Feature! Check it out! 437-3487

12 SATURDAY

Grand opening Party at Guerrero Street Gardens takes place from 12-5 pm at 1074 Guerrero. Play among the palms! 626-7256

THE JINX JONES JAZZ TRIO plays at Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 4-7 pm. 648-1047

MISSION VILLAGE MARKET, the Mission's only indigenous flea market, is free, open to the public every Saturday from 10 am 'til 4 pm, and is located at 2948 18th Street @ Florida. 643-3469

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT AT SAINTS PETER AND PAUL SALESIAN SCHOOL. Celebrate the Cultural Diversity of North Beach in a night filled with food, music and dances from around the world. Raffle and Silent Auction. For more information please call (415) 421-5219 or www.stspeterpaul.san-francisco.ca.us

O-MAYA plus guest **DJ MOTION POTION**. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm - \$8. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

VICTORIA HANNA, FRANK LONDON. CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$10 adv \$12 door. 861-5016

13 SUNDAY

DJ SEP & special guests **ROBERT RANKIN' and TOMAS**. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$5. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

MELODOSIA at the CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 7 pm, \$8 in adv., \$10 door. 861-5016

STRONG CURRENT Dance Company performs at Dance Mission Theater, 3316-24th Street @Mission, at 8:00pm. 415-273-4633.

14 MONDAY

BRAD BROOKS, NEDELLE w/ THOM MOORE (of the Moore Brothers), **SANDYCOATES**. CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$10. 861-5016

15 TUESDAY

NOBODY FROM IPANEMA (Funky Samba - LIVE). ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

BRIGITTE DEMEYER Record Release Party. CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, free. 861-5016

16 WEDNESDAY

RED MEAT plus **THE STILLMEN** and **JAMES BROWN**. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

DARK SPARKLE (Goth-DJ DANCE). CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$3 Before 11 pm - \$5 After - 18 & over. 861-5016

17 THURSDAY

The HoDown Quartet plays at Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 8-10 pm. 648-1047

ONE HIT WONDER: Video installation artists Chuck Rubble, and J. Mombert travel cross-country to present recent video anomalies and their plans for the future. Exhibiting and lecturing across Canada with their harebrained ideas (remote control rabbit cages, bubble-gum cowboy busts, and obsessive use of the color orange with Kool-aid and balloons) Tonight's program promises much head-scratching and nervous laughter. A.T.A., 992 Valencia, 8 pm, \$5.

THE KUFFS, RubberSideDown, NERO. CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 8 pm, \$7. 861-5016

CARLITO'S WAY plus DJ JESUS DIAZ Y QBA. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$7. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

Joan Jeanrenaud, former cellist of the Kronos Quartet, and artist Tom Bonauro premier their new evening length (1 hour) collaboration, INBETWEEN, at Brava Theater in June, but tonight you can catch a "full tech, video, snow machine, lighting and sound run-through" of 20-30 minutes worth of it at 2781 24th Street, 4:30-6:30.

MISSION VILLAGE MARKET, the Mission's only indigenous flea market, is free, open to the public every Saturday from 10 am 'til 4 pm, and is located at 2948 18th Street @ Florida. 643-3469

SEQUENCE YOUR OWN MITOCHONDRIAL DNA, A THREE-DAY WORKSHOP. Inherited only from the mother, mtDNA is used by

APRIL / EARLY MAY 2003 A.D.

18 FRIDAY

BILLY JOE SHAVER, DAVE GLEASON'S WASTED DAYS. CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$12. 861-5016

I Swing Like That by AIRSpace Artist Cedric Brown, a work-in-progress performance at Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Street, 8 pm, \$5-\$10 sliding scale. 554-0402

DJ LOGIC (Turntalism - LIVE MUSIC). ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$10. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

The Nashville-based band Lambchop will play their score for the screening of **SUNRISE** at the Castro Theater at 7:00 pm. Winner of the first Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Actress, and Best Cinematography in 1928, **SUNRISE** is considered F.W. Murnau's finest work.

19 SATURDAY

THE BLUES FUSE plays Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 4-7 pm. 648-1047

SWEET SCIENCE: CANDY! Live Event and Webcast. Why are jelly beans shiny? Can the color of a candy affect the way it tastes? Explore these and other sweet questions at this live event and webcast devoted to food at the Exploratorium. Take a virtual tour of a jelly bean factory, watch a live candy-making demonstration, and marvel at edible sculptures made entirely out of sugar. Take part live at the Exploratorium, or online at <http://WWW.EXPLORATORIUM.EDU/COOKING>.

This event is free with admission to the Exploratorium.

OF MONTREAL, CHICKEN ON A RAFT, JAMES WILLIAM HINDLE. CAFE DU NORD, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$8. 861-5016

MISSION VILLAGE MARKET, the Mission's only indigenous flea market, is free, open to the public every Saturday from 10 am 'til 4 pm, and is located at 2948 18th Street @ Florida. 643-3469

SEQUENCE YOUR OWN MITOCHONDRIAL DNA, A THREE-DAY WORKSHOP. Inherited only from the mother, mtDNA is used by

scientists to trace the evolution and migration of the human species, including when the common ancestor of modern humans and Neanderthals lived. The workshop will allow visitors to collect and sequence their mtDNA, and also use it to compare their genetic ancestry to others across the world, as well as to long-dead humans like "Ice Man." Offered in conjunction with the Exploratorium's Traits of Life exhibition, the workshop is co-sponsored by Bay Area Biotechnology Education Consortium (BABEC) and Applied Biosystems. Registration is extremely limited and participants must be 18 or over to attend. The three-day workshop costs \$100 (\$80 for members) and will be held April 19, 26 and May 10 from 9am-1pm. Advance registration required. Please call 415-674-2870 or go to: <http://WWW.EXPLORATORIUM.EDU/PR/MTDNA.HMTL>

DJ LOGIC (Turntalism - LIVE MUSIC). ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$10. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

20 SUNDAY

"**JACK KEROUAC IS 81**" is a celebration of the living spirits of Jack and Jan Kerouac and a belated birthday party featuring a showing of the film "Who Owns Jack Kerouac." ATA, 992 Valencia @ 21st, 7 pm, \$5 and up, sliding scale. 824-3890 or [www.atasite.org](http://WWW.ATASITE.ORG)

Dennis James will perform Louis Gottschalk's original score on the mighty Wurlitzer organ for the screening of **D.W.GRIFITH'S ORPHANS OF THE STORM** at 5:30 pm at the Castro Theater.

DJ SEP and special guests **RAS CUE** and **DUPPY RANKS** (aka **ROSS HOOG**). ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$5. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

21 MONDAY

Singer/songwriter **MOKAI** at the ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$7. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

AFTERMATH: UNANSWERED QUESTIONS from 9-11, an investigative documentary, will be shown at the Herbst Theater, 401 South Van Ness, 7:30 pm, \$7-\$10. [www.gnn.tv](http://WWW.GNN.TV)



CONTINUED . . .

22 TUESDAY

SUPERBACANA at the ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

23 WEDNESDAY

ERGONOMIC SELF-HELP is a workshop on how to avoid computer injuries sponsored by Bay Area Video Coalition, a nonprofit media arts center, and taught by Hilary Bryan and Claudia Singer from The Body at Work. 2727 Mariposa Street, 2nd Floor, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, \$45, Class Info: call 415-820-1410 To Register: call 415-558-2126, or on the web at www.bavc.org

HOT BOOGIES CHILLUN plus RICOCHETS, & ARSEN ROULETTE. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$8. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

An evening of music with performer David Rovics and speaker Medea Benjamin benefits Global Exchange at Al Fanous Restaurant, 3170 16th Street, 7:30-10 pm, \$5-\$15. 575-5542

24 THURSDAY

HAROLD RAY LIVE IN CONCERT, GRAND-DRIVE, JOSHUA BENNETT. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 861-5016.

Bluegrass & old-time music jam-session — open to all acoustic string band players Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 8-10 pm. 648-1047

MAZACOTE plus DJ CARLITO'S WAY. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$7. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

25 FRIDAY

VIVIENDO DE PAO at the ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$7. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

The Realistics, Louder Milk, The Peels. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 8 pm, \$8. 861-5016

Divided We Fall by AIRSpace artists-in-residence The SF Buffoons, at Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission Street, 8 pm, \$5-\$10 sliding scale. 554-0402

The Eroica Trio, a New York-based, all-female piano trio performs for free at Community Music Center Recital Hall, 544 Capp Street, at 6 pm. 647-6015

26 SATURDAY

BO GRUMPUS plays at Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 4-7 pm. 648-1047

The Politics of Fear and the Police State, with speakers John Judge (political investigator), Riva Enteen (Nat'l Lawyer's Guild), Sheilah O'Dell (private eye & surveillance expert), Evelyn Fielden (Holocaust witness), and Roberto Leni (Chilean poet) at Somarts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan, noon-5 pm, \$5. 575-5542

MISSION VILLAGE MARKET, the Mission's only indigenous flea market, is free, open to the public every Saturday from 10 am 'til 4 pm, and is located at 2948 18th Street @ Florida. 643-3469

Concrete Jungle Noticing Tour, a walking tour featuring the common plants found amid the concrete and asphalt wilderness growing up around the Exploratorium, will be led by botanist Archie Wessells and artist Michael Swaine. The Exploratorium, 1 pm. For reservations, please call (415) 674-2870 by April 25.

VINYL at the ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$8. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

LAVAY SMITH & HER RED HOT SKILLET LICKERS. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$8.

The Jennifer Perlinger Project plays Latin and contemporary music at Community Music Center Recital Hall, 544 Capp Street, 8:30 pm, \$10-\$5. 647-6015

27 SUNDAY

POR LA PAZ/FOR PEACE: Poetry and Music Marathon features more than 20 poets and musicians, including

Jack Hirschman
Agneta Falk
Q.R. Hand, Jr.
Akinyele
Galo Tovar and Friends
Jorge Argueta
Teresa Kennett
Thelma Flores
Francisco Herrera
La Bolshevik
Nellie Wong
German Donatien
Merle Woo
Carlos Mejia
Alfonso Texidor

at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 3 pm-8pm.

BENEFIT ART AUCTION AND RECEPTION featuring original art from the Middle East and by Bay Area Artists, at SomArts Gallery, 934 Brannan Street, Noon-5 pm, \$18. 986-9184

An intimate evening w/ **MATT SHARP** and special guests **JOSH HAVER** and **SCOTT JOHNSON**. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$10. 861-5016

DJ SEP and LUDICHRIS. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$5. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

28 MONDAY

MULL HISTORICAL SOCIETY and intimate acoustic performance. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$10. 861-5016

THE NAYSAYERS ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

29 TUESDAY

MEET THE HEAT AT THE COP SHOP—Mission Police Station hosts its monthly meeting for the public they protect and serve. Check it out; you might learn something or meet someone you'll be glad to know about. Mission Station, 17th and Valencia, 6 pm, free. B.Y.O.

NOSSA BOSSA. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$6. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

Guitarist Antigoni Goni plays at Community Music Center Recital Hall, 544 Capp Street, at 6 pm, free. 647-6015

JOHNNY DILKS & THE VISITACION VALLEY BOYS, ROCKINLOYD TRIPP & THE ZIPGUNS. ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 8:30 pm, \$10. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

30 WEDNESDAY

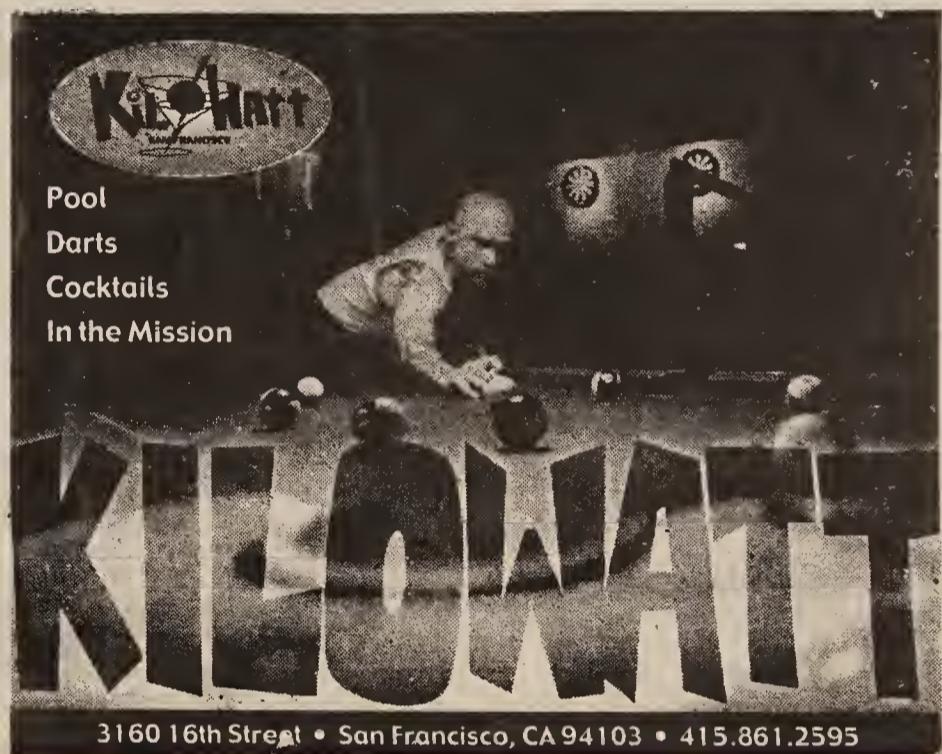
The Spirit of Exploration: Roald Amundsen's Polar Expeditions. Through July 6, the Exploratorium and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General of San Francisco are pleased to present this photo exhibition, on view in the Seeing Gallery, of over 90 black-and-white historic photos offering an unprecedented view of early polar exploration. Free with admission <http://www.exploratorium.edu/pr/polar.htm>

DARK SPARKLE. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, 861-5016 (New Wave/Goth-DJ DANCE) \$3 Before 11 pm - \$5 After - 18 & over

MAY 2003

1 THURSDAY

The Volunteer Center of San Francisco celebrates VOLUNTEERS at an OPEN HOUSE from 4:30-7:00 pm at 1675 California Street (cross street Van Ness). The Open House, which is free and open to the public, will feature live entertainment, prizes, food, games and other activities, and is part of a national celebration in honor of volunteers during National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3, 2003.



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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR - MAY

NO-WAY Group and **ZAZA** Dance Theater present an evening-long original performance: **ATMOSPHERE/Utmostfear**, at Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 8 pm, \$10-\$15, no one turned away. Presented tonight, Friday and Saturday only. 821-1155

The Dark Hollow Band plays at Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 8-10 pm. 648-1047

MAKE ME FAMOUS, LIZ PISCO, PAULA BRISKER. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 8:30 pm, \$5. 861-5016

CANDELA plus DJ CARLITO'S WAY ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$7. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

FAERIE BIRDS performed by **Dance NAGANUMA** at SomARTS Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, 8 pm, \$15. Presented nightly through the 5th. 864-4120

2 FRIDAY

ATMOSPHERE/Utmostfear
(See 1 THURSDAY for details)

FAERIE BIRDS performed by **Dance NAGANUMA** at SomARTS Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, 8 pm, \$15. Presented nightly through the 5th. 864-4120

MINGUS AMUNGUS under the direction of **MILES PERKINS** plus guest DJ **DNA DAN** ELBO ROOM, 647 Valencia, 10 pm, \$8. 552-7788 or WWW.ELBO.COM

MURAL AWARENESS MONTH kicks off with a party at Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors' Center, 2981 24th Street (at Harrison), 7 pm to midnight, \$5. 285-2287

3 SATURDAY

ATMOSPHERE/Utmostfear
(See 1 THURSDAY for details)

WORM BIN SALE!!! (And composters, too.) San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) sponsors a one-day event offering SF residents two home composting systems for sale at 75% off regular retail, including the Wriggly Wrench worm composting bin, at HANC Recycling Center, 780 Frederick Street at the West end of Kezar Stadium, 9 am-3 pm.

OPEN HOUSE At Mission Branch Library. Cascada de Flores, Jorge Argueta, dancers from the Mission Cultural Center, presenters from 826 Valencia and Youth Speaks, and La Familia Peña-Govea will be performing at the Mission Branch Library, celebrating Cinco de Mayo and the anniversary of our reopening. Refreshments will be served. 12:30 - 5 pm, Bartlett & 24th Street, free.

NEW MISSION NEWS

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Charles Gatewood, Josiah

Brava Theater Center presents Chilean-born jazz singing sensation and Verve recording artist **CLAUDIA ACUÑA**, at 2789 24th Street (24th & York Streets), 8 pm & 10 pm, \$24 advance / \$26 at door. Tickets by phone 415-647-2822 (BTCC); Tickets Online www.brava.org

SEA MUSIC FESTIVAL one day only at SF Maritime National Historic Park, Hyde Street Pier, 10 am-5 pm, \$5. 561-7100

Jeannie & Chuck's Country Roundup plays at Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 4-7 pm. 648-1047

FAERIE BIRDS performed by **Dance NAGANUMA** at SomARTS Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, 8 pm, \$15. Presented nightly through the 5th. 864-4120

SPRING OPEN STUDIO today & tomorrow 11 am-6 pm at Hunter's Point Shipyard Artists Community. 387-5936

MISSION VILLAGE MARKET, the Mission's only indigenous flea market, is free, open to the public every Saturday from 10 am 'til 4 pm, and is located at 2948 18th Street @ Florida. 643-3469

BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE, THE LOVETONES & guests. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$8 861-5016

4 SUNDAY

CARNAVALITO! A dress rehearsal for the Carnaval Grand Parade on the 25th, today's Founder's Parade takes place at noon in Precita Park.

An Evening in Cuba Fundraising Gala for Carnaval at Roccapulco Supper Club. The Cuban sounds of Orquesta Aragon.

FAERIE BIRDS performed by **Dance NAGANUMA** at SomARTS Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, 8 pm, \$15. Presented nightly through the 5th. 864-4120

5 MONDAY

FAERIE BIRDS performed by **Dance NAGANUMA** at SomARTS Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, 8 pm, \$15. 864-4120

7 WEDNESDAY

ARTISTS WAREHOUSE SALE!

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) Artists Gallery presents its tenth annual Artists Warehouse Sale from May 7 through 11, 2003, at Fort Mason Center, Building A. This benefit sale includes a variety of works created by more than 350 invited West Coast artists. All artworks will be offered at 50 percent off the normal retail price. Proceeds from the Artists Warehouse Sale support the SFMOMA Artists Gallery's exhibition program, which promotes regional art, SFMOMA and the artists themselves. A festive grand opening reception, complete with refreshments and live music, will kick off the sale on Wednesday, May 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. During the week of the sale, the gallery will offer special extended hours: Wednesday, May 7 6-9 p.m. (opening and reception)

Thursday, May 8 noon-8 p.m.
Friday, May 9 noon-8 p.m.
Saturday, May 10 noon-5:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 11 noon-4 p.m.

8 THURSDAY

High Country plays at Atlas Café, 3049 21st St./Alabama, 8-10 pm. 648-1047

CHARLES GATEWOOD PHOTOGRAPHY, FILM ON FRIDAY MAY 9TH

FORBIDDEN PHOTOGRAPHS, an exhibition of photos by Charles Gatewood at The Lab, 2948 16th Street, 5-9 pm. The exhibition will continue through May 21. 864-8855.

FORBIDDEN PHOTOGRAPHS: THE MOVIE premieres at the Roxie at 6 pm. The 90-minute documentary on the life and work of Charles Gatewood will play for one week, with screenings each night at 6, 8, and 10 pm. 863-1087

PARTY AND BOOK SIGNING celebrating filmmaker Bill Macdonald and photographer---you guessed it---Charles Gatewood at Adobe Books, 31116 16th Street, 9 pm. 864-3936



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HOMAGE TO THE PALMAGE

by Ryder Miller

Adding an exotic atmosphere to the city, palm trees continue to thrive in our Mission neighborhood, evoking a home to the South for some, and images of exotic lands for others. Some of the palm trees found in the neighborhood are native to California, like the California Oil Palm; others are from exotic locales, like the Canary Island Date Palm. On some days they make the city seem warmer; on other days they remind us of tropical storms. The sight of palm trees can almost transport one to another locale.

A number of things make the Palm special among trees. They have long, barren trunks, with branches only at their heights. Though big (the California Oil Palm may grow as tall as 50 feet), they do not have an extensive root system, and therefore are easily transported. Palm trees do not require a lot of water because they are desert plants. Their trunks are also not capable of repairing themselves, so marks made on the trunk are permanent.

Flora Grubb, the new proprietor of The Palm Broker, which sells Palm trees on Guerrero Street between 22nd and 23rd, says the palm tree finds public appreciation in San Francisco because of both the Spanish and Victorian influences on the city. The Victorians were interested in exotic things from far-off places like the palm trees, which are native to the southwestern United States and Central and South America, as well as Africa, Asia and many Pacific islands. "It works with the Mediterranean gardens and the Victorian architecture. The Victorians were fascinated with the plants of the tropics. They were always collecting and bringing things back," said Grubb.

Ellyn Shea, Tree Care Coordinator for The Friends of the Urban Forest, says the palm tree can "provide either a tropical or desert look. They can give a sense of the warmth of a desert or a lush and tropical locale, depending upon what it is planted with and the architectural style of the building it is planted in front of. It is more of a psychological effect rather than [a matter of] the air being warmer or dryer."

Palm trees actually grow slowly in the city, because the climate is not as warm as they are used to. One can capture the effect of a desert-scape by planting cacti and succulents alongside the palms. White walls will evoke the Mediterranean, and white and blue the Greek villa. To simulate the lush environments where Palms occur naturally, one can co-plant Calla lilies,

outdoor orchids, green plants with big leaves, and even build Asian-style architecture. One of the benefits of planting palm trees is that they don't require as much water as many other trees. The smaller amount of green leaves found on Palm Trees results in less transpiration, or loss of water to evaporation.

Shea says that even though palm trees are low-maintenance, they are not widely planted by the Friends of the Urban Forest. "From an ecological perspective, they don't absorb much carbon dioxide." The Friends of the Urban Forest help residents and businesses plant trees in front of their premises, but the building owners become the stewards. The Friends worry about some of these trees, but they cannot monitor the fate of all of the trees that they have planted.

In "The Palms in Our Hands," Gary Paul Nabhan mentions: "Palms may have appeared as far north as Central California more than seventy million years ago, based on reports of pollen similar to that of *Sabal* and *Washingtonia* found in Late Cretaceous sediments.... By themselves, the northern palms are considered relicts left over from earlier climates that were more favorable for your average palm." But the palm trees may have once been native in the area. In the past they have been found in such far-off places as Greenland.

There are roughly 2800 species of palms. They have been used to furnish food, shelter, clothing, timber, fuel, building materials, fibers, starch, oils, waxes, wines, and a number of other products for the indigenous people of the tropics. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says there are about 20 species of palms native to the Continental United States. Palms are of the order *Arecaceae* and the family *Palmae*.

The common California Oil Palm, *Washingtonia filifera*, is native to areas of the Southwest, and is not widely planted in the city. Some of the common palms you can see locally include the Canary Island Date Palm on Dolores Street, the Mexican Sand Palms on Mission Street, the California Oil Palm on Harrison around 22nd, and the Queen Palm in front of the Lone Palm Bar or at Castro and Market behind the Arco Station. There are also Windmill Palms at 16th and Shotwell.

Many people are impressed by the palm's magnificent beauty. "I have a natural love of them," says Grubb. "Palm trees in San Francisco have always fascinated me. Palm trees define the look of San Francisco. They are an amazing complement to the architecture of the city."

"They almost make the city feel warmer. Trees make the environment more beautiful," says Mark Green, former Palm Broker and owner of the Lone Palm Cocktail Bar at 22nd Street and Guerrero. Green sold The Palm Broker because he is moving to Santa Barbara, where he may again sell palm trees. Green said palm trees have been in San Francisco for 100 years. Our city's beautiful palm trees are always remembered fondly by San Francisco's tourists.



A REGAL PALM PRESIDES SERENELY OVER THE SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF THE LONE PALM BAR

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The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2003, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003

Cuba

Population: 11,224,321
Language: Spanish
Religion: Roman Catholic
Government: Communist
Defense Budget: \$33 million
GDP: \$19.2 billion
Education: Free, compulsory: ages 6-11
Literacy: 96%

Traveler's Tales, Cuba: True Stories
Edited by Tom Miller

This nice book, part of the Travelers' Tales Guides series, is an interesting collection of true tales of travel in Cuba by such authors as Dave Eggers, Eduardo Galeano, and Andrei Codrescu.

A Place in the Sun? Women Writers in Twentieth Century Cuba
By Catherine Davies

This Cuban literary history of women writers covers the socioeconomic factors and obstacles in the 1900s that affected and inspired this group of talented women. Although this book is primarily academic in scope, its coverage of the political changes during the 1900s and their effects on creativity make this book fascinating.

The Cuban Democratic Experience: The Autentico Years, 1944-1952
By Charles Ameringer

In this book, Ameringer analyzes the corrupt and changing politics of Cuba during the late 40s to early 50s, and covers the failings of democracy before the coup d'état in 1952.

Culture and Customs in Cuba
By William Luis

This book, part of the Culture and Customs of Latin America and the Caribbean series, is an overview of Cuban society including detailed, in-depth coverage of religion, cinema, media, art and literature.

Walker Evans, Cuba
By Walker Evans

Take a look at the streets of Cuba in this 1933 collection of photographs of pre-Castro Cuba by Walker Evans. A beautiful collection.

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APRIL 2003

Tues, April 15 7:30 PM	Knitting Bee with the Shizknits Roy Richard Heinberg
Mon, April 21 7:30 PM	Doug Dowd's Course on Economics Doug Dowd
Tues, April 22 7:30 PM	CALYX Books: A Fierce Brightness Ellen Bass, Rebecca Gordon, Mira Shimabukuro, Merle Woo
Thur, April 24 7:30 PM	Poet as Radio: A Reading with Students from Sarah Rosenthal's Poetry Workshop Sarah Rosenthal, Mary Ann Brooks, Allison Fairchild, Jenny Johnson, Patti Page, Blair Randall, and Jay Thomas
Sat, April 26 7:30 PM	Portraits of Israelis and Palestinians: For My Parents Seth Tobacman
Tues, April 29 7:30 PM	The Civil Disobedience Handbook: A Brief History and Practical Advice for the Politically Disenchanted James Tracy, Editor
Thur, May 1 7:30 PM	Monkey Hunting Cristina Garcia

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FROM THE BIKE LANE

By Adam Raney

Sometimes even a good atheist needs to go to church.

That was the case these past few days for me. Suffering a barrage of war coverage and a phalanx of retired military brass analyzing all of the strategy and none of the effects of the war, I was in dire need of spiritual aid.

Luckily for me, the bicycle community dealt me the opportunity in spades.

First of all, I attended the neighborhood Bike Plan meeting I mentioned in last month's column. It was held at the Women's Building on March 26. The San Francisco Bike Coalition and the Department of Parking and Traffic co-hosted the hands-on planning session for the Mission and Noe Valley. The hall was packed with committed neighborhood residents who are making the dream of a bicyclist's utopia a reality in San Francisco.

After a brief introduction we broke into groups, which were asked to come up with several key streets and intersections that need improvements for bicycles in the Mission and Noe Valley. Each group had about 45 minutes to determine their top three recommendations. Here's a rundown of some of the most interesting and innovative ideas the groups came up with:

1. Move parking on Valencia closer to the center of the street and have colored bike lines running alongside the sidewalks;
2. Put bike signal boxes at the Market / Church intersection and at Valencia and Market, so that bicyclists can have their own turn time; and
3. Create a colored bike path running up and down César Chávez Street connecting with a new one on Potrero.

A member of my group, Sasha Cutler, heavily supported this final idea. As a parent of students at Buena Vista Elementary School, he is concerned about the freeway-style driving that reigns on Potrero. As many of you probably know,

a young girl who attended preschool at Buena Vista was tragically killed by a truck that ran over the curb on Potrero.

The most important aspect of the meeting was the sense of hopefulness and power that came as a result of attending it. As the groups made their presentations, the audience cheered their favorite ideas and the presenters hammered it up (well, as much as wonkish bicyclists can!). In the midst of a war that is depressing and debilitating for many of us in the neighborhood, it was empowering to come together and work on practical ways to get more people on their bikes, out of their cars and less dependent on foreign oil.

With a similar goal in mind, a rip-roaring party on wheels known as Critical Mass occurred on Friday, March 28. It was a big one, NMN readers, and I am sure many of you were part of the thousands-large mass. Arriving at Justin Herman Plaza at quarter-to-six I was able to gauge the positive feeling that was in the air. Anti-war signs, French flags and smiling bicyclists seemed to be everywhere. Although there had been days of bike rides protesting the war, the March Critical Mass was the occasion when we in the bicycle community were able to truly show our commitment to stopping this war and weaning ourselves off oil. For the most part, the ride was a mobile party that seemed even to include more than a few of the drivers it was delaying. Many held up peace signs in solidarity with those of us on the ride. Others smiled and honked their horns in pleasure rather than in frustration.

But the biggest hit of the night, for me, was David Gartner's mobile S'mores operation. Gartner somehow equipped his bike with pipes and fuel and set up a S'mores-making mini-café on Market Street during a lull in the ride. Luckily, I was able to get a marshmallow on the fire and a bite of chocolate to go with it before the police moved us along. As we dispersed, Gartner's plea for humanity's soul rang in my head: "Make S'mores, not wars!"

I rode off thinking, "Amen, hallelujah!"

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Fri, April 18 5:30 PM	CHUCK PETERSON QUARTET: Chuck Peterson, Sax; Scott Foster, Guitar; Don Prell, Bass; Jimmy Ryan, Drums
Fri, April 25 6:00 PM	APRIL IN PARIS: Jazz on the Parisian Thoroughfare PARTY WITH CHUCK PETERSON QUARTET
Sat, April 26	APRIL IN PARIS: Readings and Performances
3:00 PM	Jean Giraudoux' <i>The Madwoman of Chaillot</i> and Albert Camus' Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech
4:00 PM	MUSIC OF DEBUSSY AND RAVEL: Solo Cello performance by Randolph Fromme
5:00 PM	<i>The Cathars of the Languedoc</i> : Walker Brents Discussion of liberal movement in medieval France, considered heretical by the Inquisition
8:00 PM	Hommage a Jean Genet (\$10 Admission) Playwright MEL CLAY and actor ARMAND BLASI pay tribute to the great avant-garde writer.
Sun, April 27 4:30 PM	SPOTLIGHT ON THE POET: Arthur Rimbaud Appreciation & Reading, Host: Walker Brents
Sun, May 4 4:30 PM	POET DAN LIBERTHSON Reads From His Work

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La Post-Modern Curandera
by
Resurrección Coyotzin Cruz

SANTOS Y MANDAS

Dear Curandera,

What happens when one makes a *manda* and does not complete it? Do I ask the Santo's forgiveness? I don't think that they would harm me. I thought that maybe my not meeting someone was because I didn't meet a *manda* I made in order to meet this person. What do you think?

Love,
Tu hermanito en raza

Dear Hermanito:

Mandas are promises we make to a saint, in exchange for heavenly help. For example, some people promise to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of the santo, especially if it's a major request, like a cure or a relative's recovery from a serious disease. Or one might promise a certain number of candles, or masses, or other offering to the saint. The *manda* request is made in advance of the miracle, and thus, the supplicant puts her or himself into the saint's debt. In your case, it sounds like you made a promise to a saint so that you would find a lover, but didn't complete your promise.

One thing I should point out here, is that a *manda* isn't a bargain. It's a serious commitment one makes with a saint. Sometimes the request is an emergency, in which case the saint will decide, along with God, whether it should be granted. However if the request is not urgent, as yours sounds, it may be that the saint wants you to complete your promise before s/he grants it.

Without knowing exactly what the *manda* was, I can't help you figure out how to accomplish it, because you can be creative about how you go about them. I agree that the saints wouldn't harm you. However they could be mad at you. Some people let their *mandas* go on without doing it for years. Some people die without finishing them, and there are stories about them coming back in dreams or as ghosts, and asking people in their family to do it for them. And if they have no family, they wait by the side of the road to the shrine, begging pilgrims to

finish their *mandas* for them, so they can rest. The purpose of these stories is to point out the importance of completing your spiritual promises.

Yes, this could well be the reason you haven't found a *novio*. The saints know which people are likely to finish the *manda*, and they may decide they want the *manda* carried out FIRST, before they intercede in your behalf. At the very least, I would feel it wasn't good luck to be in a saint's debt. If you have an unfinished *manda*, I would advise you to complete it!

Love,
Rez

Dear Curandera,

I had a beautiful dream even though it was a disaster. I dreamed that I was standing in the ocean saying prayers and doing a ritual with other people. Then a tidal wave came and everyone was swept away, but I survived. Then the telephone rang and woke me up, and I got the news that a car chase ended by crashing into a house I owned (I was somewhere else at the time). B.

Dear B:

Water in dreams is usually emotional as well as spiritual. I think the dream is saying your spiritual practice will help see you through a tidal wave of emotional and perhaps financial adversity that may be coming your way as a result. Hang in there, and keep up those prayers! They give you strength and grounding through difficult times.

Rez

La Post-Modern Curandera is by Resurrección Cruz, author of "Santora, The Good Daughter," Xipactli Publishing, available at Modern Times Books, Bernal Books, and Barnes & Noble.com. If you have spiritual or health questions that aren't being addressed by your religious and medical establishments, send Rez your questions at lacurandera@earthmonsterbooks.com.



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Richard Pitt

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, BUT NOT A DROP TO DRINK

Perhaps the greatest necessity for good health is water. We take for granted that we can turn our taps on and clean, drinkable water will come out. Water is a basic necessity of life. The greatest improvement in the health of societies throughout the world has come with the availability of clean drinking water.

However, the fact remains that for millions of people in the world, access to clean, free water is not available. More children in developing countries die from diarrhea as a result of contaminated water than from any other cause. If we could utilize our resources to ensure that all people in the world had clean water, many millions of lives would be saved.

The question is, how can this be achieved?

Given the technology available today, it should not be difficult for international organizations and governments to collaborate in making clean water available to all mankind. However, another factor has come over the horizon in the world of water - privatization. For the last 20 years, economic and political forces have thrust the grim specter of private ownership of water resources onto countries in both the developed and the developing world. This can most clearly be seen today in the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WHO). Although separate organizations, they function as interdependent regulators and overseers of the economic policies of most countries of the world. Their agenda is determined by banking, corporate and government interests in the developed world - mainly the USA and Europe. One of their main pursuits has been to require privatization of national water resources as a condition for economic aid. In this way, they have forced many countries to surrender ownership of the utilities which supply the necessities of life into the hands of huge transnational or international corporations. The world's water is but one of the resources they feel should be privatized.

An article in the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, on February 26, 2003, outlined the current issues regarding the world's water supply. On March 16, the World Water Forum met to "create a new vision of the future ownership and distribution of the water supply around the world." The meeting was sponsored by the World Water Council, a think tank whose membership includes the World Bank, global water corporations, the UN, various governments and the International Private Water Association. According to the article, they presented a "world water

vision" endorsing an aggressive, for-profit future for control of water resources, and declared that access to water is not a basic human right but a need that can be delivered by the private sector. They envisaged water being transported across the world in huge tankers, just like oil today.

This policy has already been carried out in many countries. England had all of its local water boards bought up by private organizations, Enron among them. This led to a 250% increase in the price of water. After the collapse of the Argentine economy, the International Monetary Fund demanded (and got) privatization of all of the country's national industries and utilities as a condition for economic aid. In Bolivia, when demonstrators took to the streets to challenge the increase in water rates resulting from privatization, hundreds were shot to death by the police. One of the owners of the Bolivian water system is International Water Ltd. of London, which, in fact, is owned by our own local corporation, Bechtel, of San Francisco. Bechtel also holds contracts for rebuilding Iraq after the war and so has been the focus of some recent anti-war demonstrations in the city. In Africa, countries have been forced to sell off their water utilities to private interests by the IMF and the World Bank; as a result, poor people now have their water cut off when they can't pay the increased charges.

In the next 20 years, the water supply will become the largest political issue in the world. It may well dwarf the current political turmoil over oil and other forms of power. California's water supply will reach a crisis point in less than 20 years. A large part of the territorial fight between Israel and Palestine is about water supply. Turkey has control of the water supply that affects Iraq and much of the Middle East. In India, Coca Cola owns a whole river system in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, while the area around the river suffers the worst drought in memory.

Until recently, in the United States we have had some protective policies assuring access to water and preventing price-gouging exploitation of this most vital resource. The current thrust toward deregulation and privatization of all our national resources will certainly result in scenarios similar to the power deregulation fiasco in California. The only difference is that many people, particularly in the poorer regions, will die as a result.

If you want to learn more about the politics of water, read a book called *Blue Gold, The Fight To Stop Corporate Theft of the World's Water* by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke.



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The information in this article may well explain the 9-11 terrorists' reason for targeting the World Trade Center. -Ed.

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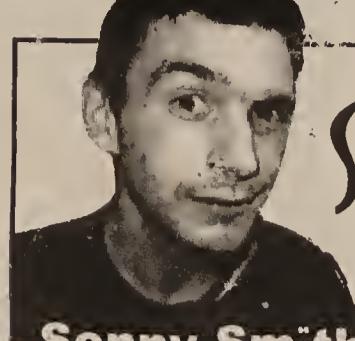
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STEPPIN' OUT

Sonny Smith

Tom lives off unemployment 'cause he got laid off from his job as a teacher, and now he's in love with a hooker. He told me, "She's my girl and I'm her guy."

"Yeah?"

"That's right. She's giving up the business for yours truly."

"She told you this?"

Tom said "Yeah," and gave his little goatee a stroke and then adjusted his glasses. Her name is Amana and she's tall, about six feet one inch, and even taller in her streetwalking shoes, a tall black woman who doesn't look so much the worse for wear, all things considered. She lives, on and off, with her pimp, H.L., which stands for 'Hang-Low' (according to Tom) and sometimes with her mother, but now she's going to scrap all that and move in with Tom (apparently). Tom is jubilant and gay, like someone in love.

"Have you met Hang-Low yet?" I asked him.

"No, I have not."

"Does he know about Amana's new direction in life?"

"I suppose so. I hope so!"

Then Tom made his exit from the street corner where we were standing, and I thought about following him, but I got hungry. Two weeks later, I saw Tom again and he didn't look good. In fact, he was drunk at an art show at Adobe Books and there was a palpable tension about him, like the way bi-polars get when they're on the wrong meds. There was tension all about him; in the way he looked at people and the way he said "Hi" to me. He looked like he might strike violently at any second or crumble up in a ball and cry.

"What happened?"

Tom showed me his bandaged ear. That was from Hang Low. Tom had been calling Amana on her cell phone so much, and getting so crazy when she wouldn't receive his calls, that she finally left the cell phone at Hang Low's apartment and, well, Tom made the mistake of talking to Hang Low about Amana. And her love. And his love. And all that.

Apparently Tom went to meet Hang Low. Their interaction went something like this: "Amana is going to come live with me."

And then a knife cut the bottom of his left earlobe off.

Now Tom was talking to me, and he was kind of shaky. And his eyes were those piercing, crazy monkey eyes.

"What are you going to do?"

"I don't know, try to find her, maybe take her back to Arizona."

"To live with your family?"

"I guess so. Till we can get back on our feet."

"Maybe you should just leave it. Isn't that ear more or less like a warning?"

"Fuck my ear. Love is love."

"What about your art and your life here?"

"Fuck that. There's nothing here I can't do in Arizona, plus nobody here likes my stuff anyway."

"You just haven't found your niche yet, that's all."

"Look around! I don't make what people like. People like this scribbly-doodley neo-naïve obsessive comic book monster trucker hat crap with lots of 4th grade matter-of-fact sentences written over it!"

"It's just a trend, Tom. Your number will come up, and then you'll forget all about Amana."

"My number will never come up. All I have is love."

"What about your cheap apartment? You can't leave that: that's like a San Francisco sin, to leave a cheap apartment."

"I live with a manic-depressive AIDS patient on heroin."

"Oh, yeah."

So a week later, Tom left the art scene and made a daring-but-failed attempt at saving Amana from the clutches of the scary Hang Low. It went kinda like this: Tom pulled up in his Toyota Corolla over at about 17th and Capp Street on Friday night, where he knew she'd be walking. She got in, and he talked to her for a little while. Told her he was going to take her with him.

"What?" she said.

"Yeah!"

"I'm not leaving. What the hell is this? Do you want a blow job or not?"

"Let's get the hell out of here before 'You-know-who' shows up!" Tom insisted.

"I'm not going anywhere with you, you crazy bastard. I'm getting out of here!"

She tried to leave, but Tom pulled out his gun. He demanded she come with him. She ignored his gun and got out of the car anyway, and started walking. Tom didn't have the heart to shoot her, so he

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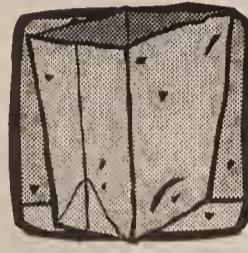
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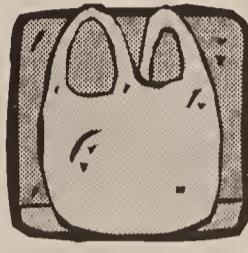
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went back to his apartment and put all his stuff in trash bags and a few duffel bags, and he threw all his art out the window and then stole some CDs from his roommate's room, and then got in his Corolla and moved to Los Angeles.

Now, that all happened about three months ago, and just the other day, I saw him. He didn't look too bad.

"Are you back here?" I said.

"Yeah." He told me he slipped right back into his old room, which never got rented out, and he was happy to be back and give the art scene another try and he was taking up the guitar and he had written some songs while his heart had been broken and he had tried to join the army but when he got to boot camp he refused to discharge

his weapon on stuffed Iraqi mannequins (pull the trigger, that is), so they released him on a Section 8 (that's the crazy release) and so he came back here.

"What about that girl?" I asked.

"I just saw her an hour ago."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah. We're back together."

"No shit?"

"I think it's gonna last this time," he said. He looked gleeful. Joyous. Hopeful.

"Crazy," I said.

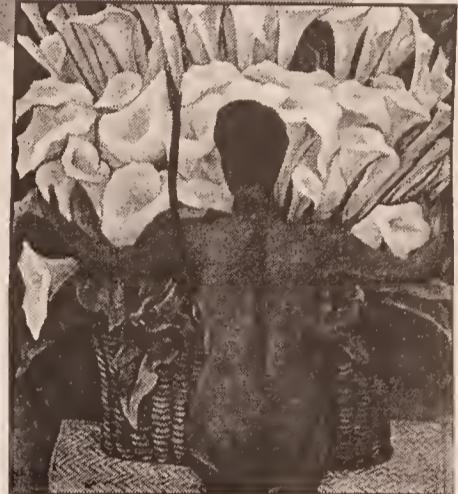
"Yeah."

"I can't believe the army didn't take you."

"Me too!"

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